2211

TOWN OF ABITA SPRINGS ABITA SPRINGS, LOUISIANA

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND AUDITORS' REPORT WITH SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DECEMBER 31, 2000

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date Qe 13 01

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	4
GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS	5
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2000 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999	7 8
COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES & CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES - BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL - GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TYPES	
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2000 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1999	9 10
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE	1 1
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS - PROPRIETARY - FUND TYPE	12
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	14
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	
GENERAL FUND SUPPORTING SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES	28
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS: COMBINING BALANCE SHEET COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES,	31
EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	32

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
ENTERPRISE FUND:	
SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENSES	33
UTILITY RATE SCHEDULE	34
GOVERNING BOARD	35
SCHEDULE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE	36
REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL	
OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF	
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE	
WITH GOVERNMENTAL AUDITING STANDARDS	37

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

The Honorable Mayor and Board of Aldermen Town of Abita Springs Abita Springs, Louisiana

We have audited the accompanying general purpose financial statements of the Town of Abita Springs as of December 31, 2000 and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999, as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the general purpose financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the general purpose financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana, at December 31, 2000, and the results of its operations and cash flows for its proprietary fund type for the two years then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the general purpose financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying financial information listed as supporting schedules in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements of the Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the general purpose financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly presented in all material respects in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated March 12, 2001, on our consideration of the Town of Abita Springs internal control over financial reporting and on its compliance with laws and regulations.

Smith, Huval & associates, L.L. C.

March 12, 2001

Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS

December 31, 2000

		Gove	Governmental Fund Types	Ş	Proprietary Fund Tyne	Accon	Account Groups	Totals
	I		Special	l		General	General	(Memerandum
ASSETS	ļ	Ceretai	Vevenue.	Scryice	culcibuse	LIXON ASSOCIA	Long-Term Deor	Cury
Cash on hand and in bank	S	94,718 \$	34,538 \$	16,833 \$	45,461 S	€5	8	191,550
Certificates of deposit			27,623		53,839			81,462
Equity in pooled cash			35,272	58,894				94,166
Investments		34,511	4,066	16,864	27,682			83,123
Receivables								
Consumers, net					122,504			122,504
Taxes, net		71,424		50,907				122,331
Interest receivable		286	<u>5</u>	436	3,875			5,457
Other receivable		18,294						18,294
Due from other funds			1,922					1,922
Prepaid expenses					2,720			2,720
Restricted assets;								
Revenue Bond Sinking Fund								
Cash					58,940			58,940
Revenue Bond Reserve Fund								
Cash					8,927			8,927
Investments					29,979			29,979
Capital Additions and								
Contingencies Fund								
Cash					9,640			9,640
Investments					24,960			24,960
Meter Deposits								
Cash in bank					25,329			25,329
Investments					55,881			55,881
Fixed assets - net of depreciation					2,229,420	486,054		2,715,474
Other assets:								
Amount available for debt service							143,934	143,934
Amount to be provided for								
retirement of bonds							233,183	233,183
Bond issuance costs	ı				10,310			10,310
	& 	219,929 \$	103,585 \$	143,934 \$	2,709,467 \$	486,054 \$	377,117 S	4,040,086

Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

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13

COMBINED BALANCE SHEET - ALL FUND TYPES AND ACCOUNT GROUPS (CONTINUED)

December 31, 2000

Totals	(Memorandum Only)	142,779	968'9	94,166	1,922	28,877	22,598	15,000	75,000		517,852,1	161,117	1,805,750			293,085	7,008	271,273	273,339	598,706	486,054		31,371	34,600	8,530	(127,742)		143,934	214,178	2,234,330	4,040,086
Account Groups	General Long-Term Debt	⋄		•							352,000	25,117	377,117																		377,117 \$
Account	General Fixed Assets	S																			486,054								196 054	480,054	486,054 \$
Proprietary Fund Type	Enterprise	135,602 \$		825		28,877	22,598	15,000	7,000		907,715	136,000	1,319,297			293,085	7,008	271,273	273,339	598,706			31,371	34.600	8,530	(127,742)			041.000.	1,390,170	2,709,467 \$
1	Debt Service	€9							•																			143,934	143 654	143,934	143,934 S
Governmental Fund Types	Special Revenue	S																											103,585	105,285	103,585 \$
Gov	General	7,177 \$	968'9	93,341	1,922								109,336																110,593	110,593	219,929 \$
•	•	ક્ત										•	•																•	•	S
	LIABILITIES AND FUND EQUITY	Accounts payable	Payroll taxes and retirement payable	Pooled cash in other funds	Due to other funds Payable from restricted assets:	Accrued interest	Revenue bonds payable	Certificate of indebtedness	Customer meter deposits	Long-term liabilities:	Bonds payable	Certificate of indebtedness	Total liabilities	Fund Equity:	Contributed capital:	Capital Project Fund	Sales Tax Fund	Municipality	EPA grant	Community Development Block Grant	Investment in General Fixed Assets	Retained earnings:	Revenue Bond Fund	Capital Accinons and Contingencies Fund	Meter Deposit Reserve Fund	Unreserved	Fund balances:	Reserve for Debt Service	Unreserved and undesignated	i otal rund equity	

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement,

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Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

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Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES

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For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

Debt (Memorandum Service Only)	\$ 51.512 \$ 104.227		48,373	11,454	28,815	129,114	29,353	45,499	15,275		1,169	52,681 796,748		330,372	344,301	2,490		000	287 26,	42,287	10,394 77,298		20,000	40,000	000,00			10,394	121,052	S 131,446 S 306,765
Special Revenue	€									3,500	1,863	5,363									5,363							5,363	80,881	\$ 86,244
General	52.715	347,679	48,373	11,454	28,815	129,114	29,353	45,499	15,275	29,222	1,205	738,704		330,372	344,301	2,490			•	677,163	61,541		20,000	40,000	00,000			121,541	(32,466)	89,075
	Real estate		Franchise	Beer and tobacco	Licenses and permits	Fines and fees - police	Grant revenue	Insurance licenses	Rentals	Other	Interest	Total revenues	Expenditures:	General government	Police	Parks and recreation	Debt service	Principal	Interest and fees	Total expenditures	Excess of revenues over expenditures	Other financing sources (uses)	Operating transfers in	Proceeds from certificate of indebtedness Total other financing gourses	Total other timaneing sources (uses)	Excess of revenue and other	financing sources over expenditures	and other financing uses	Fund balance, beginning	Fund balance, ending

Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

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COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE-BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL - GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TYPES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

		General Fund			Special Revenue Funds	sp
			Variance- Favorable			
	Budget	Actual	(Unfavorable)	Budget	Actual	(Unfavorable)
Revenues:						
Taxes	€9	S	63	65	S	
Real estate	49,000	50,836				
Sales	340,000	359,338	19,338			
Franchise	48,000	54,413	6,413			
Beer and tobacco	11,000	8,209				
Licenses and permits	27,400	24,972				
Fines and fees - police	104,000	54,877	•			
Grant revenue	14,700	11,375				
Insurance licenses	45,000	52,092				
Rentals	13,000	17,525				
Other	28,100	24,241	•		15,400	15,400
Interest	200	1,596			1,941	1,941
Total revenue	680,700	659,474	(21		17,341	17,341
Experiences.						
General government	394,200	357,083	**			
Police	304,500	298,554	vi.			
Parks and recreation	2,000	2,319	(319)			
Total expenditures	700,700	657,956	42,744		•	1
Excess (deficiency) of revenues						
	(20,000)	1,518	21,518		17,341	17,341
Other financing sources (uses):		2000				
Operating transfers in Total other financing sources (uses)	20,000	20,000				
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and	S	21,518	\$ 21,518	S	17,341 \$	17,341
other financing uses						
Fund balance, beginning		89,075	1		86,244	
Fund balance, ending		\$ 110,593	į		\$ 103,585	

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE-BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) AND ACTUAL - GENERAL AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUND TYPES

For the Year Ended December 31, 1999

		General Fund			Special Revenue Funds	- 1
	Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)	Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues:					•	
Taxes				,	,	
Real estate	\$ 48,000	'n	v,	S	₽ 3	S
Sales	242,000	r-1	105,			
Franchise	48,000		3 373			
Beer and tobacco	11,500		(46)			
Licenses and permits	25,700		3,115			
Fines and fees - police	204,000	•	S			
Grant revenue	12,000					
Insurance licenses	45,000		499			
Rentals	11,000		5 4,275			
Other	30,500		•		3,500	3,500
Interest	2,500		(1,295)		1,863	1,863
Total revenue	680,200	738,704	\$ 58,504	•	5,363	5,363
Typendituese						
General government	365,850	330,372	35,478			
Police	338,611					
Parks and recreation	2,000					
T. 4.1	107 304	77. 667				
i otal expenditures	706,461	cor*//o	867,67	•	•	•
Excess of revenues over expenditures	(26,261)	61,541	87,802	•	5,363	5,363
Other financing sources (uses):	20.000	20.000	•			
Proceeds of loans						
Total other financing sources (uses)	20,000	0000	40,000	•		
Excess (deficiency) of revenues and other financing sources over expenditures and other financing uses	\$ (6,261)	121,541	S 127,802	,	5,363	\$ 5,363
Fund balance, beginning		(32,466)	্ল		80,881	
Fund balance, ending		\$ 89,075	الم		S 86.244	

ENTERPRISE FUND UTILITY SYSTEMS

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND CHANGES IN RETAINED EARNINGS - PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE

For the Years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	2000	1999
Operating revenues		
Gas sales	\$ 353,597	\$ 295,949
Water sales	103,363	97,341
Sewer service charges	184,637	174,920
Garbage collection fees	117,448	113,053
Water and gas connect fees	33,840	31,632
Miscellaneous	<u>27,507</u>	20,551
Total operating revenues	<u>820,392</u>	<u>733,446</u>
Operating expenses		
Administrative and general	98,656	68,944
Gas purchased	256,881	127,105
Gas systems	60,132	64,794
Water system	62,236	57,755
Sewerage system	121,353	117,871
Garbage collection	114,102	110,001
Depreciation	79,022	60,791
Total operating expenses	<u>792,382</u>	607,261
Net operating income	28,010	126,185
Non-operating revenues (expenses)		
Interest income	16,214	39,500
Interest expense	(65,267)	,
Total non-operating revenue (expenses)	(49,053)	(27,939)
Net income (loss) before operating transfers	(21,043)	98,246
Operating transfers out	(20,000)	(20,000)
Net income (loss)	(41,043)	78,246
Retained earnings (deficit), beginning	(12,198)	(90,444)
Retained earnings (deficit), ending	<u>\$ (53,241)</u>	<u>\$ (12,198)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

ENTERPRISE FUND UTILITY SYSTEMS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE

For the Years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	2000	1999
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net operating income	\$ 28,010	\$ 126,185
Adjustments to reconcile net operating income		
to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	79,072	60,791
Amortization of bond issuance costs	574	572
Increase in receivables	(47,575)	(4,790)
Decrease in other receivables	-	25,382
Decrease in prepaid expenses	-	(209)
(Decrease) increase in accounts payable	(120,098)	142,589
Total adjustments	(88,027)	<u>224,335</u>
Net cash provided (used) by operating activities	(60,017)	<u>350,520</u>
Cook flours from noncepital financing activities:		
Cash flows from noncapital financing activities:	6,139	2,038
Increase in customer deposits	71,712	(12,090)
Increase in equity in pooled cash	(20,000)	(20,000)
Operating transfers out to other funds Net cash provided (used) by noncapital	<u> </u>	(20,000)
financing activities	57,851	(30,052)
maneing activities	<u></u>	
Cash flows from capital and related financing		
activities:		(757 176)
Construction costs	(44.700)	(757,176)
Purchase of fixed assets	(44,709)	(9,790)
Principal payment on bonds and certificate of indebtedness	(36,536)	(20,397)
Interest payment on bonds and certificate of indebtedness	(65,962)	(67,962)
Net cash provided (used) for capital and related	(1.42.202)	(0(0.225)
financing activities	(147,207)	(869,325)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest received from investments	15,224	41,325
Purchase (maturity) of pooled investments		
not classified as cash equivalents	(6,896)	(6,100)
Net cash provided by investing		
activities	8,328	<u>35,225</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

ENTERPRISE FUND UTILITY SYSTEMS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS PROPRIETARY FUND TYPE - (Continued)

For the Years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

		1999
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	\$ (141,045)	\$ (513,632)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<u>343,181</u>	856,813
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	<u>\$ 202,136</u>	<u>\$ 343,181</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Town of Abita Springs was incorporated in 1914, under the provisions of the Lawrason Act. The Town operates under a Mayor-Board of Aldermen form of government.

The accounting and reporting policies of the Town of Abita Springs conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) as applicable to governments. Such accounting and reporting procedures also conform to the requirements of Louisiana Revised Statutes 24:517. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body in establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The following is a summary of certain significant accounting policies:

1. Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the Town of Abita Springs consists only of the governmental funds, proprietary fund, and account groups of the Town. The Town has no oversight responsibility for any other governmental entity since no other entities are considered to be controlled by or dependent on the Town. Control or dependence is determined on the basis of budget adoption, taxing authority, funding, and appointment of the respective governing board.

2. Fund Accounting

The accounts of the Town of Abita Springs are organized on the basis of funds and account groups, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund equity, revenues, and expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate. Government resources are allocated to and accounted for in individual funds based upon the purposes for which they are to be spent and the means by which spending activities are controlled. The following funds and groups of accounts included in the accompanying financial statements are used by the Town of Abita Springs:

Governmental Funds:

General Fund - The General Fund is the general operating fund of the Town. It is used to account for all financial resources except those to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds - Special revenue funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources (other than capital projects) that are legally restricted to expenditures for specific purposes.

Debt Service Fund - The Debt Service Fund is used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and payment of, general long-term debt principal, interest, and related costs.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

2. Fund Accounting - continued

General Fixed Assets and General Long-Term Debt Account Groups:

General Fixed Assets - The General Fixed assets Account Group is used to account for fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations for control purposes. All fixed assets are valued at historical cost or estimated historical cost if actual historical cost is not available. Donated fixed assets are estimated at their fair market value on the date of donation. No depreciation is recorded on general fixed assets.

General Long-Term Debt Account Group - The General Long-Term Debt Account Group is used to account for long-term liabilities to be financed from governmental funds.

Proprietary Fund:

Enterprise Fund - The Enterprise Fund is used to account for operations (a) that are financed and operated in a manner similar to private business enterprises - where the intent of the government body is that the costs (expenses, including depreciation) of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis be financed or recovered primarily through user charges or (b) where the governing body has decided the period determination of revenues earned, expenses incurred, and/or net income is appropriate for capital maintenance, public policy, management control, accountability, or other purposes.

3. Fixed Assets and Long-Term Liabilities

The accounting and reporting treatment applied to the fixed assets and long-term liabilities associated with a fund are determined by its measurement focus. All governmental funds are accounted for on a spending or "financial flow" measurement focus. This means that only current assets and current liabilities are generally included on their balance sheets. Their reported fund balance (net current assets) is considered a measure of "available spendable resources". Governmental fund operating statements present increases (revenues and other financing sources) and decreases (expenditures and other financing uses) in fund balance (net current assets). Accordingly, they are said to present a summary of sources and uses of "available spendable resources" during a period.

Fixed assets used in governmental fund type operations (general fixed assets) are accounted for in the General Fixed Assets Account Group rather than in governmental funds. Public domain ("infrastructure") general fixed assets consisting of certain improvements other than buildings, including roads, bridges, curbs and gutters, streets and sidewalks, drainage systems, and lighting systems are not capitalized by the Town. No depreciation has been provided on general fixed assets.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

3. Fixed Assets and Long-Term Liabilities - (Continued)

Fixed asset values are based on historical cost (if available) or estimated historical cost if historical cost was not available.

Long-term liabilities expected to be financed from governmental funds are accounted for in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group, not in the governmental funds.

Because of their spending measurement focus, expenditure recognition for governmental fund types is limited to exclude amounts represented by noncurrent liabilities. Since they do not affect net current assets, such long-term amounts are not recognized as governmental fund type expenditures or fund liabilities. They are listed as liabilities in the General Long-Term Debt Account Group.

The two account groups are not "funds". They are concerned only with the measurement of financial position. They are not involved with measurement of results of operations.

The proprietary fund is accounted for on a cost of services or "capital maintenance" measurement focus. This means that all assets and all liabilities (whether current or noncurrent) associated with its activity are included on its balance sheet. Its reported fund equity (net total assets) is segregated into contributed capital and retained earning components. Proprietary fund type operating statements present increases (revenues) and decreases (expenses) in net total assets.

Depreciation of all exhaustible fixed assets used by the proprietary fund is charged as an expense against its operations. Accumulated depreciation is reported on the propriety fund balance sheet. Depreciation has been provided over the estimated useful lives using the straight line method. The estimated lives are as follows:

Water and Sewerage System 25-40 years Equipment 5-10 years

4. Basis of Accounting

Basis of accounting refers to when revenues and expenditures or expenses are recognized in the accounts and reported in the financial statements. Basis of accounting relates to the timing of the measurements made, regardless of the measurement focus applied.

All governmental funds are accounted for using the modified accrual basis of accounting. Their revenues are recognized when they become measurable and available.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

4. Basis of Accounting - continued

Ad valorem, sales, and other taxes and fees are considered measurable when in the hands of intermediary collecting governments and are recognized as revenue at that time. Grants from other governments are recognized when qualifying expenditures are incurred.

Expenditures are generally recognized under the modified accrual basis of accounting when the related fund liability is incurred. Exceptions to this general rule include: (1) accumulated unvested sick pay which is not accrued; and (2) principal and interest on general long-term debt which is recognized when due.

All proprietary funds are accounted for using the accrual basis of accounting whereby revenues are recognized when they are earned and expenses are recognized when incurred.

5. Budgets and Budgetary Accounting

Prior to the beginning of each year, an annual operating budget is prepared. At the end of the fiscal year, unexpended appropriations of these funds automatically lapse.

The Town follows these procedures in establishing the budgetary data reflected in this financial statement:

- (1) The Mayor, Board of Aldermen, Town Clerk, and other advisory personnel assemble the necessary financial information. The Mayor submits the information for review to the Council before the November meeting.
- (2) The budget information is introduced at its regular meeting in November and is published in its official publication.
- (3) The budget is allowed to lay over for 30 days for recommendations and changes and is adopted prior to or at the last meeting of the current fiscal year. The budget is legally adopted through passage of an ordinance by department which is the legal level.

The Town amended its budget during 2000 following the same procedures as above. These amendments are reflected in the budget comparisons.

6. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments

Cash balances of all funds are combined to the extent possible. Interest earned on deposits is distributed to the individual funds based on the investment balances of the participating funds during the year. Each fund's portion of the pooled cash is included in equity or deficit in pooled cash on the accompanying combined balance sheet. The combined balance in this pooled cash account as of December 31, 2000 is \$90,861.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

6. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments - continued

Under state law, the Town may deposit funds with a fiscal agent bank organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana, the laws of any other state in the union, or the laws of the United States. The Town may invest in United States bonds, treasury notes, repurchase agreements, or certificates and time deposits of state banks organized under Louisiana law and national banks having principal offices in Louisiana.

The Town's deposits at December 31, 2000, are summarized as follows:

	Carrying <u>Amount</u>	Bank <u>Balance</u>
Category 1 Demand deposits Certificates of deposit	\$ 294,386 <u>81,462</u>	\$ 319,235 81,462
Total	<u>\$ 375,848</u>	<u>\$ 400,697</u>

Under state law, the bank balances of these deposits must be secured by federal deposit insurance or the pledge of securities owned by the fiscal agent bank. The market value of the pledged securities plus the federal deposit insurance must at all times equal or exceed the amount on deposit with the fiscal agent. At December 31, 2000, deposits are entirely insured or collateralized with securities held by a mutually acceptable third party financial institution in the Town's name, which is considered a Category 1 investment credit risk as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The carrying amount does not include accrued interest of \$5,457 on certificates of deposit and investments.

Statutes authorize the Town to invest in the following types of securities:

- 1. Fully-collateralized certificates of deposit issued by qualified commercial banks and savings and loan institutions located within the State of Louisiana.
- Direct obligations of the U.S. Government including such instruments as treasury bills, treasury notes and treasury bonds.
- 3. Obligations of U.S. Government agencies that are deliverable on the Federal Reserve System.
- 4. Repurchase agreements in government securities in (2) and (3) above made with the primary dealers that report and are regulated by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE A - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

6. Cash, Cash Equivalents and Investments - continued

The Town's investments of \$193,943 at December 31, 2000, include United States Treasury Bills stated at cost, which approximates market value. This investment is considered a Category 2 investment risk which includes securities held by the counterpart's trust department or agent in the Town's name.

The Town considers all highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less when purchased to be cash equivalents in the Proprietary Fund.

7. Total Columns on Combined Statements - Overview

Total columns on the combined statements - overview are captioned "memorandum only" to indicate that they are presented only to facilitate financial analysis. Data in these columns do not present financial position, results of operations, or changes in financial position in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Neither is such data comparable to a consolidation. Interfund eliminations have not been made in the aggregation of this data.

8. Customer Accounts Receivable

Uncollectible amounts due for customers' utility receivables included in the Enterprise Fund are recognized as bad debts through the establishment of an allowance account at the time information becomes available which would indicate the uncollectibility of the particular receivable. The allowance is \$8,428 and \$5,124 at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively.

9. Comparative Data

Comparative data for the prior year has been presented in some funds of the accompanying financial statements in order to provide an understanding of changes in financial position and operations. However, complete comparative data has not been presented in those instances where its inclusion would not be meaningful or would make the statement unduly complex and difficult to read.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE B - AD VALOREM TAXES

Property taxes are normally levied and billed in December of each year and are due in February of the following year. Revenues are recognized when levied to the extent they are determined to be currently collectible. The Town bills and collects its own property taxes using the assessed values determined by the tax assessor of St. Tammany Parish. The ad valorem taxes receivable are recorded net of allowance of \$5,358 on the accompanying balance sheet. Total property revenue for the year ended December 31, 2000 is recorded in the funds as follows:

General Fund 7.86 mills	\$ 50,836
Debt Service Fund 7.86 mills	 50,836
Total	\$ 101,672

NOTE C - RESTRICTED ASSETS

The Town has approved resolutions authorizing the issuance of \$395,000 Utility Revenue Bonds dated March 24, 1990 and \$600,000 of Utility Revenue Bonds dated July 8, 1998. Both of the resolutions provide for certain restrictions on assets of the Enterprise Fund. The following reserve requirements have been met for the year ended December 31, 2000.

1. Revenue Bond Sinking Fund

The resolution called for the establishment and maintenance of a Utilities Revenue Bond and Sinking Fund sufficient in amount to pay promptly and in full the principal of and the interest on bonds authorized as they become due and payable.

2. Revenue Bond Reserve Fund

The resolution called for the establishment of a Revenue Bond Reserve Fund by depositing with the designated fiscal agent bank of the Town until such time as there has been accumulated in said Reserve Fund a sum equal to the highest combined principal and interest payment in any year of the Bond. The sole purpose of this fund is to pay the principal of and the interest on the bonds payable from the Revenue Bond Reserve Fund as to which these would otherwise be in default.

3. Depreciation and Contingency Fund

The resolution called for the establishment and maintenance of a Depreciation and Contingency Fund to care for depreciation, extensions, additions, improvements and replacements necessary to properly operate the system. Regular deposits of \$371 a month are to be deposited with the regularly designated fiscal agent of the Town.

Meter Deposit Fund - The Town established a meter deposit fund to help maintain customer meter deposits on hand as well as help control customer meter deposits received.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE D - INTERFUND RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES

Individual fund Interfund receivable and payable balances at December 31, 2000 were as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	Interfund <u>Receivables</u>	
General Fund Special revenue funds	\$ -	\$ 1,922
Mausoleum Fund	1,922	<u> </u>
	<u>\$ 1,922</u>	\$ 1,922

NOTE E - FIXED ASSETS

The Town has established a detailed fixed asset listing using historical cost and estimated historical cost. In preparing this listing, the Town decided not to capitalize infrastructure assets thereby excluding these assets. Presented below is a summary of changes in general fixed assets:

	Amount
Balance at January 1, 1999	\$ 448,649
Additions	51,498
Retirements	<u>841</u>
Balance at December 31, 1999	499,306
Additions	7,218
Retirements	20,470
Balance at December 31, 2000	<u>\$ 486,054</u>

Fixed assets are shown at net on the Balance Sheet for the Enterprise Fund and consist of the following:

	2000	<u> </u>	
Utility systems - initial costs and improvements: 1960 through 1978	\$ 270,353	\$ 270,353	
Sewer system	2,099,029	2,099,029	
Extensions and additions: 1979 to present	124,363	116,250	
Gas system	49,993	13,445	
Water system	641,705	641,705	
Extensions and additions: 1979 to present	70,876	70,876	
Computer equipment and software	8,950	8,950	
	3,265,269	3,220,608	
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	1,035,849	<u>956,827</u>	
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 2,229,420</u>	<u>\$ 2,263,781</u>	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE F - LONG-TERM DEBT

The following is a summary of bond and certificates of indebtedness transactions of the Town for the two years ended December 31, 2000:

	General		
	<u>Obligation</u>	Revenue	Total
Payable at 01/01/99	\$ 384,000	\$ 1,152,246	\$ 1,536,246
Issued	40,000	-	40,000
Retired	19,120	34,397	53,517
Payable at 12/31/99	404,880	1,117,849	1,522,729
Issued	_	-	-
Retired	27,763	36,536	64,299
Payable at 12/31/00	<u>\$ 377,117</u>	<u>\$1,081,313</u>	\$ 1,458,430

Bonds and certificates payable at December 31, 2000 are comprised of the following individual bonds:

due in annual installments of \$26,426			
including interest at 6.0%; secured by			
revenues of the Enterprise System.			
\$212,000 General Obligation Bonds Series			

\$395,000 Utility Bonds dated 03/24/90;

363,313

\$212,000 General Obligation Bonds Series 1989, due in annual installments through March 2009; interest paid semi-annually ranging from 7.75% to 11.0%; secured by ad valorem tax.

87,000

\$365,000 General Obligation Bonds Series 1995; due in annual installments through June 2014; interest paid semi-annually Ranging from 5.55% to 10%; secured by ad valorem tax.

265,000

\$600,000 Utility Bonds dated 7/8/98 due in annual installments through March 1, 2018 including interest at 6.0%; secured by revenues of the Enterprise Fund

567,000

\$180,000 Certificate of indebtedness dated 7/8/98 due in annual installments through June 1, 2008; interest paid semi-annually at 6%, secured by revenues of the Enterprise System

151,000

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE F - LONG-TERM DEBT (Continued)

\$40,000 Certificate of Indebtedness dated 9/9/99 due in monthly installments of principal and interest at 4.75% through 9/2/2002 secured by excess revenues of Town

25,117

\$ 1,458,430

General obligation bonds, \$424, 000, are secured by an annual ad valorem tax levy. In accordance with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:562, the Town is legally restricted from incurring long term bonded debt in excess of 35% of the assessed value of taxable property in the municipality. At December 31, 2000 the Town had not exceeded this statutory limit.

The following is a schedule of future principal payments:

Year Ending <u>December 31</u>	Revenue	General Obligation	<u>Total</u>
2001	\$ 37,598	\$ 30,482	\$ 68,080
2002	40,873	29,635	70,508
2003	43,166	23,000	66,166
2004	45,476	24,000	69,476
2005	48,840	24,000	72,840
Thereafter	865,360	246,007	1,111,360
	<u>\$ 1,081,313</u>	\$ 377,117	\$ 1,458,430

As of December 31, 2000, there is \$143,934 available in the Debt Service Fund to service the general obligation bonds.

NOTE G - FUND DEFICITS

The Enterprise Fund has a deficit in retained earnings of \$53,241 at December 31, 2000.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE H - PENSION PLANS

Substantially all employees of the Town of Abita Springs are members of the following statewide retirement systems: Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana and Municipal Police Employees Retirement System of Louisiana. These systems are cost-sharing multiple-employer, defined benefit pension plans administered by separate boards of trustees. Pertinent information relative to each plan follows:

A. <u>Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana (System</u>)--The System is composed of two distinct plans, Plan A and Plan B, with separate assets and benefit provisions. All employees of the municipality are members of Plan A.

All permanent employees working at least 35 hours per week who are not covered by another pension plan and are paid wholly or in part from municipal funds and all elected municipal officials are eligible to participate in the System. Under Plan A, employees who retire at or after age 60 with at least 10 years of creditable service, at or after age 55 with at least 25 years of creditable service, or at any age with at least 30 years of creditable service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least the amount of creditable service stated above, and do not withdraw their employee contributions, may retire at the ages specified above and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Municipal Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, 7937 Office Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809, or by calling (504) 925-4810.

Funding Policy. Under Plan A, members are required by state statute to contribute 9.25 percent of their annual covered salary and the Town of Abita Springs is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 5.75 percent of annual covered payroll. Contributions to the System also include one-fourth of one percent (except in Orleans and East Baton Rouge Parishes) of the taxes shown to be collectible by the tax rolls of each parish. These tax dollars are divided between Plan A and Plan B proportionately on the salaries of the active members of each plan. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Town of Abita Springs are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Town of Abita Springs required contributions to the System under Plan A for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \$9,873, \$9,995 and \$9,735 respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

B. <u>Municipal Police Employees Retirement System of Louisiana (System</u>)--All full-time police department employees engaged in law enforcement are required to participate in the System. Employees who retire at or after age 50 with at least 20 years of creditable service or at or after age 55 with at least 12 years of creditable service are entitled to a retirement benefit, payable monthly for life, equal to 3 1/3 per cent of their final-average salary for each year of creditable service. Final-average salary is the employee's average salary over

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE H - PENSION PLANS - CONTINUED

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the 36 consecutive or joined months that produce the highest average. Employees who terminate with at least the amount of creditable service stated, and do not withdraw their employee contributions, may retire at the ages specified previously and receive the benefit accrued to their date of termination. The System also provides death and disability benefits. Benefits are established by state statute.

The System issues an annual publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for the System. That report may be obtained by writing to the Municipal Police Employees Retirement System of Louisiana, 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70809-2250, or by calling (504) 929-7411.

Funding Policy. Plan members are required by state statute to contribute 7.5 percent of their annual covered salary and the Town of Abita Springs is required to contribute at an actuarially determined rate. The current rate is 9.0 percent of annual covered payroll. The contribution requirements of plan members and the Town of Abita Springs are established and may be amended by state statute. As provided by Louisiana Revised Statute 11:103, the employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuation and are subject to change each year based on the results of the valuation for the prior fiscal year. The Town of Abita Springs required contributions to the System for the years ending December 31, 2000, 1999, and 1998 were \$14,534, \$12,838, and \$13,192, respectively, equal to the required contributions for each year.

NOTE I - BOARD OF ALDERMEN SALARIES

The Board of Aldermen receive three hundred dollars per monthly meeting. They also receive one hundred dollars for any special meetings. The special meetings in which the Board can earn one hundred dollars are limited to not more than one per month. The Board of Aldermen salaries are included in the Town's General Fund.

NOTE J - RECONCILIATION OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The following is a reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents per the balance sheet of the Proprietary Fund to the cash and cash equivalents per the statement of cash flow:

Cook and seek sessionlesses were belonge about	2000	<u>1999</u>
Cash and cash equivalents per balance sheet:	•	
Cash on hand and in bank	\$ 45,461	\$ 864
Certificates of deposit	53,839	255,290
Restricted:		
Bond sinking	58,940	58,510
Bond reserve	8,927	5,003
Capital additions and contingency	9,640	5,188
Meter Deposits	25,329	18,326
Total cash and cash equivalents per		
statement of cash flows	<u>\$ 202,136</u>	<u>\$_343,181</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

December 31, 2000

NOTE K - UTILITY ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

The following is an aging of utility accounts receivable at December 31, 2000:

Current	\$ 115,617
31 to 60 days	8,480
61 to 90 days	1,212
over 91 days	5,623
	130,932
Less allowance	<u>8,428</u>
	<u>\$ 122,504</u>



GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES COMPARED TO BUDGET (GAAP BASIS)

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	2000			
	**** *********************************		Variance- Favorable	1999
	Budget	Actual	(<u>Unfavorable</u>)	Actual
General government:				
Salaries	110,000	122,883	(12,883)	102,386
Council salaries	14,000	18,500	(4,500)	13,000
Employee insurance and benefits	50,000	33,855	16,145	50,962
Accounting and auditing	12,000	12,317	(317)	21,053
Advertising and publication	5,000	4,438	562	2,956
Animal control	1,500	700	800	2,744
Auto - gas and oil	2,500	2,243	257	4,810
Auto - repairs and maintenance	3,000	562	2,438	-
Billing expenses	2,500	2,298	202	2,261
Contract labor	7,500	8,519	(1,019)	_
Conventions and travel	4,000	2,531	1,469	2,888
Dues and subscriptions	1,200	1,099	101	890
Equipment purchased	8,000	1,219	6,781	4,397
• •	3,000	6,146	(3,146)	3,915
Forestry grant Inspections	4,500	3,660	840	5,075
	28,000	13,995	14,005	13,448
Insurance	5,500	6,599	(1,099)	-
Legal	1,200	1,113	87	-
Land lease Landscape committee expenses	3,500	2,880	620	3,599
·	2,000	- ,	2,000	-
Lease payments	11,000	8,416	2,584	10,997
Miscellaneous	7,000	2,559	4,441	4,744
Office supplies	8,000	5,495	2,505	Ĺ
Payroll taxes	12,000	3,768	8,232	19,607
Piney Woods	2,000	1,898	102	-
Postage	20,000	20,053	(53)	18,065
Repairs and maintenance	7,000	6,829	171	-
Retirement	2,300	3,196	(896)	2,380
Senior citizens	30,000	31,163	(1,163)	16,218
Street repairs	4,000	4,010	(10)	2,147
Telephone		1,364	636	3,484
Uniforms	2,000	22,775	(2,775)	<u>18,346</u>
Utilities	20,000			\$ 330,372
	<u>\$ 394,200</u>	<u>\$357,083</u>	<u>\$ 37,117</u>	W 000012

GENERAL FUND

SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES COMPARED TO BUDGET (GAAP BASIS) - CONTINUED

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

		2000		•
	Budget	Actual	Variance- Favorable (<u>Unfavorable</u>)	1999 <u>Actual</u>
Police:				
Salaries	\$ 147,487	\$ 153,877	\$ (6,390)	\$ 166,599
Insurance and benefits	46,000	37,370	8,630	48,839
Retirement	13,718	14,393	(675)	-
Debt service - auto	14,400	13,138	1,262	3,581
Equipment purchased	13,470	6,298	7,172	55,582
Evidence	500	231	269	_
Gas and oil	13,000	10,726	2,274	10,985
General insurance	17,825	11,403	6,422	14,074
Grant expense	2,000	3,357	(1,357)	1,536
Miscellaneous	1,000	3,786	(2,786)	2,858
Office supplies	3,500	5,448	(1,948)	3,476
Repairs and maintenance	15,500	18,660	(3,160)	19,447
Telephone	3,500	4,568	(1,068)	2,259
Training	4,000	4,572	(572)	5,345
Uniforms	1,000	830	170	2,376
Witness fees	7,600	9,897	(2,297)	7,344
	\$ 304,500	<u>\$ 298,554</u>	<u>\$ 5,946</u>	<u>\$ 344,301</u>
Parks and recreation:	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>\$ 2,319</u>	<u>\$ (319)</u>	<u>\$2,490</u>

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION

CEMETERY FUNDS

The Cemetery Fund is used to account for the revenues to maintain the Town's cemetery. Revenues are received from sales of plots and interest earned on investments. Expenditures are generally for repairs, maintenance and administrative costs.

MAUSOLEUM ENDOWED CARE FUND

The Mausoleum Endowed Care Fund is used to account for the revenues to maintain the Town's mausoleum. Revenues are received from sales of mausoleum crypts and interest earned on investments. Expenditures consist of repairs, maintenance and administrative costs.

ALL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

COMBINING BALANCE SHEET

December 31, 2000

ASSETS	Cemetery Fund	Mausoleum Endowed Care Fund	Total
Cash in bank Equity in pooled cash Investments Due from other funds Interest receivable	\$ 34,538 32,720 4,066 	\$ 2,552 27,623 1,922 \$ 32,097	\$ 34,538 35,272 31,689 1,922 <u>164</u> \$ 103,585
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE			
Fund balances	\$ 71,488 \$ 71,488	\$ 32,097 \$ 32,097	\$ 103,585 \$ 103,585

ALL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

COMBINING STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

For the Year Ended December 31, 2000

	Cemetery	Mausoleum Endowed	Tota	als
Revenues	Fund	Care Fund	2000	1999
Sale of cemetery plots Interest Total revenue	\$ 15,400 <u>302</u> <u>15,702</u>	\$ - 1,639 1,639	\$ 15,400 <u>1,941</u> <u>17,341</u>	\$ 3,500 1,863 5,363
Expenditures: Total expenditures	<u> </u>	-	-	<u>-</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditures	15,702	1,639	17,341	5,363
Fund balance, beginning	55,786	30,458	86,244	80,881
Fund balance, ending	<u>\$ 71,488</u>	<u>\$ 32,097</u>	<u>\$ 103,585</u>	<u>\$ 86,244</u>

ENTERPRISE FUND UTILITY SYSTEMS

SCHEDULE OF OPERATING EXPENSES

For the Years Ended December 31, 2000 and 1999

	2000	1999
Administrative and General		
Employee insurance and retirement	\$ 26,426	26,693
Bad debts	3,148	330
Billing expense	14,199	9,780
Insurance expense	7,550	•
Legal and accounting	12,317	16,191
Miscellaneous	10,868	4,703
Office supplies	2,415	3,523
Repairs and maintenance - equipment	16,932	- 0.100
Travel and meetings	3,891	2,123
Uniforms	<u>910</u>	<u>1,735</u>
Total Administrative and General	<u>\$ 98,656</u>	<u>\$ 68,944</u>
Gas System		
Salaries	\$ 31,481	\$ 31,536
Materials	9,406	,
Repairs and maintenance	19,245	<u>23,388</u>
Total Gas System	<u>\$ 60,132</u>	<u>\$ 64,794</u>
Water System		
Salaries	\$ 31,976	\$ 33,476
Materials	10,348	•
Repairs and maintenance	9,398	11,374
Utilities	10,514	5,688
Total Water System	<u>\$ 62,236</u>	<u>\$ 57,755</u>
Sewerage System		
Salaries	\$ 38,570	\$ 37,343
Materials and supplies	15,522	9,480
Plant testing	7,117	7,179
Repairs and maintenance	30,480	49,993
Utilities	29,664	13,876
Total Sewerage System	<u>\$ 121,353</u>	<u>\$ 117,871</u>
Garbage Collections		
Garbage pick-up	\$ 111,212	\$ 107,361
Trash pick-up	2,890	2,640
Total Garbage Collection	<u>\$ 114,102</u>	<u>\$ 110,001</u>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2000

Utility Rate Schedule at December 31, 2000

Water charges:

Residential

- \$ 5.95 per month for the first 2,000 gallons

.90 per month per thousand for next 8,000 gallons
.50 per month per thousand over 10,000 gallons

Commercial

- \$15.00 per month for first 10,000 gallons

- .50 per month over 10,000 gallons

Sewer charges:

All customers - 2.17 times the water bill calculated above with a minimum of \$13.00 and a maximum of \$55.00.

Gas rate schedule:

Charges thru October 2000 are based on usage schedule ranging from \$4.95/cubic foot to \$.74/cubic foot depending on the volume used. Effective in November 2000, the following formula was used:

Residential = $$4.50 + {[(gas cost x 1.07\%) + $2.925] x mcf}$ Commercial = $$4.50 + {[(gas cost x 1.07\%) + $3.290] x mcf}$

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2000

Governing Board

Board of Aldermen	Term of Office	Compensation
Jonathan Davis, Mayor Pro-Tem P.O. Box 461 Abita Springs, LA 70420 504-892-0711	December 31, 2002	\$ 3,900
Lynn Bridges P.O. Box 461 Abita Springs, LA 70420 504-892-0711	December 31, 2002	\$ 3,600
Ruth Terry-Sipos P.O. Box 461 Abita Springs, LA 70420 504-892-0711	December 31, 2002	\$ 3,600
Louis Fitzmorris P.O. Box 461 Abita Springs, LA 70420 504-892-0711	December 31, 2002	\$ 3,600
Calvin Cognovich P.O. Box 461 Abita Springs, LA 70420 504-892-0711	December 31, 2002	\$ 3,600

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

December 31, 2000

Schedule of Insurance Coverage

Coverage	Amount of Coverage	
Property and contents (aggregate)	\$ 496,200	
Fidelity	Mayor \$ 30,000 Mayor pro tem 30,000 Town clerk 30,000 Utility clerk 30,000	
Liability	General \$ 2,000,000 Auto 1,000,000 Error and omissions 1,000,000 Law enforcement 1,000,000	

Smith, Huval & Associates, L.L.C.

(A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY)

Certified Public Accountants

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Samuel K. Smith, CPA Patrick "Bryan" Huval, CPA

(985) 892-6633 - Covington (985) 892-4666 - FAX

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

The Honorable Mayor and Board of Alderman Town of Abita Springs, Louisiana

We have audited the general purpose financial statements of the Town of Abita Springs as of and for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 and have issued our report thereon dated March 12, 2001. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Town of Abita Springs' financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Town of Abita Springs' internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amount that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended solely for the information of management, the Rural and Economic Development office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor and is not intended to be nor should be used by any other than those specified parties.

Smith, Huval & Bassistes, L.I.C.

March 12, 2001